

My New "Inside-Outside" Gown.

Lady Duff-Gordon's
"Double Decker" Gown—
You're Fully Dressed Even

When You
Take
the Skirt
Off

LADY DUFF GORDON, the famous "Lucile" of London, and foremost fashion creator of the world, writes each week the fashion page for this newspaper, illustrating it with photographs or sketches of her own exclusive London and New York models. Lady Duff-Gordon this week describes her newest creation, the "Surprise," a "double-decker" gown, invented by "Lucile" especially for American women. Here she tells of this astonishing new dress.



And calmly takes the skirt off in the restaurant.

Illy-like motif of brodered braid which finishes and fastens the coat in front being also in black. There are many ball buttons, too, of entwined silk cord and braid set closely together on the sleeves, and again at either side of the coat at the back where in the centre another of square-shaped medallion of braid. The length of the coat made it especially protective and becoming, too, and as it has a second, and invisible, fastening low down at one side in front, it is still held closely about the figure, even when it is thrown open at the neck. And then you get your first surprise, for, in contrast to its outer simplicity, it then reveals inner facings of dead rose satin, which at the left side are bordered in dull

oxidized silver and gold, and silks whose soft shadings lead on to the definite and yet delicate mauve of the brocade that forms a final bordering, and is patterned with blurred roses of dead gold, the two metallic tissues being finally brought together at the edge. On the other side there are just two narrow folds of the brocade, set against the faintly rose-hued satin and contrasted with a mere edge of black fur. The skirt, as seen beneath it, is just a simple closely clinging shape in the same "rattine" cloth, fastening all down the left side with the ball buttons and braided hooks, the completing items for the toilette being last suggested by the photograph, and consisting of a great flat pillow muf of Persian lamb and a black velvet hat, surrounded by a veritable hedge of black al-gettes.

Next stage—the coat removed and the dress revealed to show above the cloth. A Russian tunic effect of dead leaf-brown rayon whose soft transparency moulded in seamless curves over the shoulders gives just an alluring suggestion of the inner daintiness.

By Lady Duff-Gordon
(“Lucile”)

I HAVE a great surprise for you this week—a pleasant one, too, I hope. If you will consider it, and one with which, if it interests you, it will be possible for you, in your turn, to surprise all your friends. You can from the first, too, take a sort of proprietor's pleasure in whatever success it achieves for America, provided the inspiration for the idea, and the costume (for, yes, the "surprise" in question is nothing more nor less than a new dress model, which, therefore, I dedicate herewith to the American woman in general and the feminine and fashionable residents of New York in particular. For well I know how difficult it has always been—and always seemed likely to be—to so arrange one's attire for the winter months as to be equally comfortable and smart when facing the cold outdoors and when suddenly transported into the hot-house temperature of the American home and hotel. Such a transition is apt to be somewhat dangerous to the health, and still more often to the delicacy of the complexion and so, in order that, in the one costume, you may enjoy all the warmth you need when taking your walks and drives abroad, and may moreover be delightfully cool and comfortable from the first moment of your entry into the most heated and crowded room—I have evolved for you that "surprise" costume, whose arrangement I now propose to reveal to you by a series of photographs and some few words of description.

First of all, then, permit me to introduce to you the "Surprise" in its complete and cozy aspect for chilly weather wear out of doors. The colors of this particular model being, of course, capable of many variations to suit individual requirements—and complexions—though for those which I have thus arranged, I must confess to a special partiality, and, further point out that they will prove almost universally becoming and serviceable, too, as well as artistically efficient.

For material I have used the new "rattine" cloth, which is really ideal for winter tailor-made, seeing that it is of almost flannel softness and warmth, and withal not in the least heavy. Its texture, indeed, suggesting a blending of blanket cloth and the old-fashioned pilot cloth of everlasting wear. Dead leaf brown is its coloring, and this is set off by a collar of silky black Persian lamb, the

The
"Double
Decker"—
Only
the
Coat
Off.

All
Ready
for
Stage
&
Tea.

Back
View
of
the
Street
Part
of
the
Skirt
Without
the
Coat

The Surprise—the "Inside" Gown—Upper Deck Off.

Neck, pink chiffon, aims lace insertions, and inter-threaded ribbons of faintest rose shadings. Round against the neck and there outlined with a fine border of gold and silver is a chemise of fresh pink chiffon. The dress shown beneath being in its turn edged with a band of the soft cloth and a metallic border, whose shimmering scrolls surround occasional appliques of old rose velvet. The cloth being contained in a central band all down the front to those bearing the burden of some black brood buttons and long black ribbons above the waist to a waistband of the mauve and gold brocade. The only touch with silver and gold, which, indeed, characterizes of the two models, further adorn the front of the back.

And there is still another stage to this costume of surprises for now, do you wish to get the real picture and change, too, with a mere touch, under the same fastenings of the cloth, oversleeve and then about the waist in a dainty dress, entirely fashioned of the soft mauve rayon, unadorned with faintest scrollwork, on which appear bands of gold and silver, and bands of black and white, and into fast bows, below the waist, beneath these transparent robes of silk. At the left side the complete edge of the skirt are bordered with black and silver, and a band of the black, the mauve and former fabric held down about the feet.

Now you know all about my "Surprise" and I hope that it may solve the winter dress difficulty for a good many of our friends.

Another item of fashion news which I have to tell you is likely to be of interest to the somewhat startling but certainly very effective use of gowns is a trimming alike for cloth coat and silk costumes, and long wraps of real musquash. There is likely to be something approaching a race among smart women to first display this very latest form of trimming, and in its use on the aforementioned cloth costumes is fortunate, as it provides opportunity for its immediate wear. A white cloth coat and skirt set with first a discreet touch of two of silken braid and then proudly displaying a roll collar of the beautifully glossy white gret, with its touches of golden brown is one such new creation which is destined to create a sensation on its first, and, indeed, on all subsequent, appearances. The skirt, too, is finished off with a deep band of gret, and in order to make its appearance somewhat more comfortable when its wearer attempts to walk, it is cut up to a depth of two inches both at the back and in the front. Which is truly a most welcome change from the once fashionable and most hideous scheme of tying in the skirt still more closely about the feet.

Then on a real musquash coat the gret will form a great shawl collar, (appearing to a point far below the waist line, the lining in its turn further recommending this to be one of the latest and smartest creations of a season that is going to establish a record in the way of beautiful furs.

The
"Double
Decker"
Dress—
the
Coat
and
Skirt
Effect—
Ready
for
the
Street.